

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield to my colleague, Senator GRASSLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, first of all, it is a pleasure to work with Senator SHAHEEN on this bill. I am very happy to work together. We have the same goals in mind. For the cynical people outside of Washington, DC, that say there is never any Republican or Democratic cooperation, there is kind of a rule around here that Senator SHAHEEN and I are examples of, but it applies to all 100 Senators.

If you really want to get something done, you have to seek bipartisanship in this body. I can quantify that in this way. There are 53 Republicans. There are 47 Democrats. But if there were 53 Democrats and 47 Republicans, the same rule would apply.

About 99 percent of the legislation that gets done around here has to have 60 votes to stop debate before you can even vote on the bill. So obviously, even if all 53 Republicans were voting together—and that doesn't happen very often—you still wouldn't get the 60 votes to pass a piece of legislation. So that is why almost every major piece of legislation that gets through here—and this example of Shaheen-Grassley is just another example—it is because you seek bipartisanship, and it is just nice that it has to be that way.

So addressing this issue, I can say I associate myself with the remarks of Senator SHAHEEN and sit down, but there is kind of a rule around the Senate. Everything that has been said on this bill has been said, but I haven't said it yet, and I am going to say it.

I recently introduced S. 2770, known as the Survivors' Bill of Rights in the States Act of 2019, with Senator SHAHEEN and Senator TILLIS. This measure is a companion to what Congresswoman SPEIER developed and introduced in the other Chamber. It builds on legislation entitled the Survivors' Bill of Rights Act that we adopted in 2016.

As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee in the last Congress, I worked closely with a young woman, Amanda Nguyen, on the development of that 2016 measure prior to its introduction. Amanda, a survivor of sexual assault, found and leads the nonprofit organization known as Rise, R-I-S-E.

She also worked with Senator SHAHEEN on the same legislation, introducing the final version in this Chamber. We incorporated that 2016 package of rights into an amendment that I offered to another measure before the Senate Judiciary Committee. In May 2016, that legislation passed this Chamber 89 to 0. In October 2016, the House version, which was introduced later, was signed by the President.

The bills that we introduced this month on the 2016 Survivors' Bill of Rights, it makes each State eligible to receive a Federal grant to implement a similar package of rights for victims of

sex crimes at the State level. Such rights include, for example, the right to know the results of your forensic exam, the right to have evidence preserved for a certain period, and the right to notice before your forensic kit is destroyed.

A State also may use its Justice Department grants to preserve sexual assault evidence kits, reduce the number of kits awaiting testing, and extend additional assistance to crime victims under our legislation. Finally, the measure we introduced authorizes 20 million annually for each of the fiscal years 2021 through 2024 to support the implementation of the new grant program established by this bill. I urge my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring the Survivors' Bill of Rights in the States Act of 2019.

I thank Senator SHAHEEN for joining in this effort and leading this bill and, most importantly, to compliment her over a long period of time in the Senate—and probably even before she came to the Senate—her commitment to working with me and with people generally on the issue of increased protection for victims of sexual assault.

Again, I thank Congresswoman SPEIER and her staff for initiating this measure in the House and for working so hard to develop a bicameral, bipartisan measure, and I thank Senator SHAHEEN once again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SAFESPORT ACT OF 2019

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, this week I introduced S. 2838 with Senators ERNST, BLACKBURN, SULLIVAN, MURKOWSKI, and PERDUE. This legislation, which we have titled the SAFESPORT Act of 2019, includes funding accountability, antiretaliation protection, child abuse reporting, and other reform measures.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Commerce Committee members who lead the Senate subcommittee with jurisdiction over the Ted Stevens Act, along with Commerce Committee Chairman WICKER, for including so much of my SAFESPORT Act as an amendment to a larger package that they developed. That measure is S. 2330, the Empowering Olympic and Amateur Athletes Act of 2019, sponsored by Senators MORAN and BLUMENTHAL.

Senators MORAN and BLUMENTHAL worked closely with me to secure the inclusion of multiple provisions of my SAFESPORT Act in their bill, which cleared the Commerce Committee this morning with unanimous bipartisan support. Every one of these provisions is designed to ensure that the U.S. Center for SafeSport, which is tasked by Congress with investigating abuse of athletes in amateur sports, continues on its current track of excellence. I extend my sincere appreciation to both subcommittee leaders for their hard work on S. 2330 and for collaborating with me to improve their bipartisan bill.

First, the SAFESPORT Act would enhance child abuse reporting, by ensuring that the Center for SafeSport is subject to the same mandatory reporting requirements as other professionals who work with children, under the Federal Victims of Child Abuse Act. By law, this center is tasked with receiving and investigating complaints of sexual abuse in amateur sports, which is why its personnel should have to report suspected crimes against children to the authorities.

Second, this bill ensures that the Center for SafeSport, a private organization that already receives millions annually in revenue from the Olympic community—and which would receive \$20 million annually, at the direction of Congress, if the Moran-Bhimenthal bill is enacted—is subject to an annual audit by an independent auditor. Such an audit is highly recommended by charity watchdog groups for the highest functioning nonprofit organizations. It is also a standard requirement for almost any nonprofit charitable organization receiving Federal grant awards of more than \$750,000 annually. My legislation also calls for the Center for SafeSport to implement any corrective actions recommended by the auditor each year or explain why it disagrees with the recommendations.

Third, this legislation subjects the Center for SafeSport to certain transparency requirements, ensuring, for example, that this organization reports to Congress annually with a detailed account of its activities, any changes in its financial standing, and a corrective action plan to implement auditor recommendations, if any. We are entitled to know how many complaints the organization investigates and resolves using the millions of dollars it receives from the U.S. Olympic community each year. Such information would be made available to the public, under the SAFESPORT Act.

The Commerce Committee included all of these accountability, transparency, and child abuse reporting provisions, as well as the antiretaliation language of my SAFESPORT Act in the package it approved today. That antiretaliation language, on which I collaborated with Senator PETERS, protects whistleblowers who come forward and report abuses in amateur sports. I thank Senator PETERS for his collaboration on that language. I am delighted

we made this progress and look forward to working with the committee to ensure it is enacted.

The only language that the committee did not accept, due to jurisdictional concerns raised by Senators BLUMENTHAL and MORAN, was the grant accountability language in the SAFESPORT Act. One section of my bill, which bars nonprofits receiving Justice Department grants from stashing funds in offshore accounts for tax avoidance purposes, among other requirements, has cleared the Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support on multiple occasions. Chairman GRAHAM approved its inclusion in the Commerce package, and Ranking Member FEINSTEIN has cosponsored similar language on multiple occasions. So I am disappointed that these reforms were omitted from S. 2330 today. Senators BLACKBURN and SULLIVAN, who joined with me in seeking the inclusion of that grant accountability language in that Commerce Committee package today, have called for adding it to S. 2330 before its floor consideration.

I look forward to working with the leaders of the Commerce Committee to achieve that goal. The only other key provision of my SAFESPORT Act that was not included in S. 2330 would enable the Attorney General to seek the removal of officers and directors of the Center for SafeSport, in the event these individuals engage in serious misconduct or material violations of the Ted Stevens Act.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring S. 2838, the SAFESPORT Act, which is so important to ensure that the organization tasked by Congress with protecting amateur athletes retains its current, high standard of excellence. I, again, thank Senator PETERS as well as my cosponsors, particularly Senators BLACKBURN and SULLIVAN, for helping me negotiate for the inclusion of so many provisions of the SAFESPORT Act in the bipartisan measure that cleared the Commerce Committee. I also want to thank my committee staff, including Kolan Davis, Evelyn Fortier, Rachael Soloway, and Dario Camacho for their hard work on this measure. Finally, I thank the organizations, such as Fairness, Dignity & Respect for Crime Victims & Survivors Project, which endorsed this legislation, as well as the Athletes Advisory Council, which worked with us on the antiretaliation provisions.

REMEMBERING THOMAS M. OWENS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on September 29, Thomas Owens of Chicago passed away, leaving a legacy of faith, philanthropy, and friendship. He was an innovator and an advocate for helping people. Tom was dedicated to the biblical proverb, "To whom much is given, much is expected."

Tom used to joke that he entered philanthropic ventures because he spent too much time hovering around

the kitchen with his wife, Mary. In truth, he just believed in helping those less fortunate. Tom and Mary founded the Owens Foundation in 1985, inspired by the work of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Tom and Mary enjoyed a friendship with Mother Teresa and were instrumental in supporting Missionary of Charity projects in Chicago, Arizona, and Tijuana, Mexico, to alleviate poverty and provide hope to those in need.

In the early 1990s, Tom retired from a successful business and having spent 20 years as an IBM executive. Many people would have considered slowing down after that, but not Tom. That same year he retired, he founded Cara Chicago.

Tom started Cara out of the back of his car. He drove shelter to shelter, connecting women with business colleagues and contacts he had accumulated over the years. Nearly 30 years later, Cara is a world-class job training and placement program, helping more than 6,000 people into more than 10,000 jobs.

Cara is the Gaelic word for friend, and this program helps give people a professional friend when they need it most.

Tom earned numerous awards like being one of the Streetwise Foundation's 20 Most Inspirational Chicagoans. He also was Leo High School's Lifetime Achievement Award winner in 2018. Leo High School's motto is *Facta non Verba*, meaning Deeds not Words. Tom's work as one of the most caring people I have known speaks for itself.

Tom liked to say, "Don't just make it a good day . . . make it a great day!" Many people have great days because of his work.

Tom is survived by his wife, five children, 22 grandchildren, and the thousands of people who have better days because of Tom.

NOMINATION OF STEVEN J. MENASHI

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to join many of my colleagues who have come to the floor to express my opposition to the nomination of Steven Menashi to U.S. circuit judge for the Second Circuit.

I am disappointed that Mr. Menashi's nomination has moved forward even though he lacks the support of his home State senators. In the rush to confirm judges like Mr. Menashi, the Senate has chipped away at the traditions that allow us to properly advise and consent on nominations, which is our responsibility under the Constitution.

Today, we are considering a nominee whose record has raised several concerning issues. While working as Principal Deputy General Counsel and as Acting General Counsel at the Department of Education, Menashi advised Secretary DeVos on the Department's efforts to withhold debt relief for stu-

dents who were defrauded by their colleges, reverse the Obama administration's regulations on campus sexual assault, and delay the enforcement of rules designed to ensure that students of color with disabilities are treated fairly. And while at the White House Counsel's Office, Mr. Menashi has advised on the administration's efforts to end the deferred enforced departure program for Liberians and to restrict access to asylum.

I am also concerned that, despite a request from all of the Democratic Senators on the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Menashi has refused to provide information about his knowledge or involvement in the events related to the telephone call between President Trump and Ukrainian President Zelensky on July 25, 2019.

It is for these reasons that I am unable to support Mr. Menashi's confirmation.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I was absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 352, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 464, William Joseph Nardini, of Connecticut, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Second Circuit.

Mr. President, I was absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 351, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 365, Jennifer Philpott Wilson, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. district judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Mr. President, I was absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 355, the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 486, Steven J. Menashi, of New York, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Second Circuit. •

(At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

• Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I join my fellow Senate Armed Services Committee subcommittee chairs in expressing my serious concerns with the possibility that congress might not pass a National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, for fiscal year 2020.

For more than five decades, the NDAA has been signed into law with bipartisan support. We had our differences, but if we fail to pass the NDAA this year, what kind of message does that send to the men and women who, in many cases, are risking their lives for our national security? Further, they will receive this message at a time of heightened strategic competition with China and Russia and a continued need to support our allies and partners. Meanwhile, we must continue